

Most Americans might be surprised to know that their Social Security isn't very secure at all. As the system stands today, your Social Security check is controlled by Congress. And when you die, your benefits are taken away, regardless of how long or how much you've paid into the system.

That's a bum deal for Americans.

If instead, we let younger workers create voluntary personal retirement accounts with a small portion of their Social Security money, more Americans could build a nest egg that the government could never ever take away. These savings could be passed on to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, voluntary personal accounts will help low- and middle-income Americans accumulate wealth and save for their future. I ask for your support.

HONORING THE DOWNINGTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Downingtown, Pennsylvania Area Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

The Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce was established in 1945 and then later incorporated in 1947. Throughout the past sixty years, the Chamber of Commerce has worked diligently to represent, assist, and grow the Downingtown business community and, in turn, has become one of the most respected business organizations in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

For the past 60 years, the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce has worked to unify and sustain the business community in the area. The Chamber has continually worked hard to maintain a strong economic base in Downingtown and continues to maintain and provide an environment that is appealing not only to businesses and merchants, but also to residents. Because of these strong initiatives demonstrated by the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce and its solid reputation for facilitating economic growth in the area, the Chamber has been instrumental in cultivating Downingtown as "The Good Neighbor Community."

Today, there are approximately 350 members of the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce. The members are comprised of small business owners, industrial companies, professionals, residents, and organizations interested in supporting the activities and principles of the Downingtown community. Moreover, the members are interested in economic prosperity for their community. The Chamber works conscientiously to make sure that Downingtown thrives and prospers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce for its drive and dedication over the past 60 years to provide the citizens of Downingtown with a community that is economically prosperous and building on its past successes for a brighter future.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LYTLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPER- INTENDENT MICHELLE C. SMITH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Lytle Independent School District Superintendent Michelle Carroll Smith.

Ms. Smith is a product of her hometown school system. She was raised on a farm in Lytle, Texas and graduated from Lytle high school. She graduated from The University of Texas at San Antonio with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Then, after completing her Master's degree in Education Administration, she became Principal at the elementary school. She later became Assistant Superintendent, and in December 2002, she became the Superintendent of Lytle Independent School District.

Ms. Smith's family has been in the Lytle school district for many years: her father Alfred Carroll graduated in 1961, and her grandmother Theresa Carroll graduated in 1940 from Lytle High School. Her children Trenton and Macy also plan to carry on the family tradition and graduate from Lytle High School in 2013 and 2016.

Mr. Speaker, Lytle Independent School District Superintendent Michelle Carroll Smith is a model of community involvement, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly thank her.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY ANDERSON

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of North Alabama's most compassionate and dedicated leaders, Mrs. Cathy Anderson. Cathy is currently the CEO and President of Woody Anderson Ford in Huntsville, Alabama.

Mrs. Anderson was recently awarded the prestigious Ford "Salute to Dealers" Award. The Salute to Dealers Award was established to demonstrate Ford Motor Company's commitment to its dealers that improve the lives of those in need in their communities. I have known Cathy for many years and cannot think of anyone who deserves this award more than her.

Before she joined her late husband at his Ford dealership, Cathy was a state social worker who worked with abused children and their families. Her work has gone a long way in providing an effective system for intervention and treatment. She continues her work with children today as a strong supporter of the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville.

Cathy is also on the forefront of methamphetamine prevention in North Alabama. In 2004, she hosted a methamphetamine educational forum for hospitality workers in Madison County. Cathy understood that a number of meth labs are found in hotel and motel

rooms and organized this forum to help point out the signs of meth abuse and teach others what they can do to help eradicate meth in the community.

Mr. Speaker, Cathy's work with children and methamphetamine abuse is quite remarkable and has helped raise the overall quality of life in North Alabama. I consider it a great privilege to have worked with Cathy on a wide variety of issues and to call her my friend.

On Friday, April 22, the North Alabama community will gather to honor and celebrate all of Cathy's achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to congratulate her on behalf of everyone in North Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE 9TH ANNUAL YOUTH PRIDE DAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, April 23rd, marks the culmination of Youth Pride Month in Washington, DC with our Ninth Annual Youth Pride Day.

Youth Pride Day occurs every April in Washington, DC. It is the annual celebration for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) young people, which has brought over 15,000 youth together since its start in 1997. The celebration has grown from just 900 participants in 1997 to over 2,500 young people last year. Youth Pride Day has evolved from a single day into a series of events which now make April Youth Pride Month. These events include a prom, poetry readings, a film screening, an awards reception, and, on Saturday, the First Annual DC Youth Pride College Fair, the nation's largest LGBT college fair as well as Youth Pride Day itself.

The Youth Pride Alliance sponsors Youth Pride Day. The Alliance was founded in 1996, and its mission is to celebrate the dignity and courage of all young people as they discover their identities as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or straight.

The Alliance challenges society to stop hate, violence, fear, isolation, and denial as it reminds us that LGBT youth in our nation's Armed Forces, do so under the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." While they have sworn to defend the United States with their lives, they must suffer the hate, fear, isolation, and denial this demonstrably untenable policy engenders.

We, who live in our nation's capital, feel a special affinity to any group that has been denied the full rights and privileges of United States citizenship most Americans consider their birthrights. I remind the House that Washingtonians, who pay the second highest taxes in America, do so without full voting representation.

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming all those attending Youth Pride Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the chamber last night to cast my

vote on rollcalls 115 through 123. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all nine of those rollcalls.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEMBER JOSE
VALDEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees Member Jose Valdez.

Jose A. Valdez has a long and distinguished career in public service. He is a previous member of the City Council of Laredo, and is active in community governance in a variety of ways.

He promotes community involvement by seniors as the South Texas Coordinator of RSVP, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Through his work, seniors have been given a way to continue to contribute to the community in their retirement, improving their quality of life and the quality of life of all those around them.

Mr. Valdez has also been an advocate for a population that is too often forgotten by government: migrant workers. He has been Deputy Director of the Texas Migrant Council, and Executive Director of the Minnesota Migrant Council.

The Laredo Independent School District now benefits from Mr. Valdez' experience and energy, as he continues his work as a Board of Trustees Member. Mr. Valdez has had an exemplary career in public service and volunteer work. He is a credit to his community, and I am proud to have had the chance to recognize him here today.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN TOM BEVILL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, with profound sadness, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend and mentor, former U.S. Representative Tom Bevill. He passed away on March 30, 2005, one day after his 84th birthday.

Congressman Bevill served in this Chamber for the State of Alabama for 30 years. He was the Chairman of the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. He was a powerful Congressman, who always remembered the people of Alabama who elected him. Under his chairmanship, he helped ensure that the State received funding for vital programs and projects and did a tremendous amount to improve the overall quality of life for his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, to honor the life and accomplishments of Tom Bevill, we must talk about the person he was. He was a devoted husband and father, a patriot and a statesman.

Mr. Bevill inherited me when I was elected to Congress in 1990. Actually, I had first met him in 1980 when he was getting off of Air Force One with President Carter in Huntsville. What a distinguished man he was coming down those steps, and I am talking about Tom Bevill. I had just been elected District Attorney of Madison County and I was meeting the man I had heard so much about, Tom Bevill. A powerful member of Congress and the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water.

In 1991, I was a dangerous creature, a freshman Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Bevill and his entire office became like family to me. He went out of his way to teach me everything he could and he let other members know that I was his partner, though I knew I was a very junior one.

One of the first legislative battles we fought together was over funding for NASA's Space Station. I had thousands of jobs at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville connected to the space station. A Michigan Member was offering an amendment to an appropriations bill to kill the whole program, ending my jobs. So a number of us, including Mr. Bevill, organized to defeat the amendment. Mr. Bevill, like a good teacher, sent me to talk to this Michigan Member.

Now Chairman Bevill didn't do all this work "for" me, he always did it "with" me. In this case, he sent me to talk to the man, alone. I did not know this man, but off I went, and I talked to him, or tried to, and it did not go well at all.

This man from Michigan put his hand on my shoulder, grinned and said, "You might as well kiss those jobs goodbye." He was crude and rude. So I reported this back to Chairman Bevill and he said, "You don't say? Well, truth be known the man is practically a communist. But, we'll beat him." And we did. Chairman Bevill was brilliant on the floor during the debate. We saved those jobs and probably mine too. And the Space Station is out there in Space. But, I sure learned a lot from Tom Bevill.

I can see him now. Always neatly dressed, hard at work for his Alabama and his Country. Chairman Bevill was from a different, and I have to say better era. A time in the U.S. House when members were civil and even courteous to one another. They might disagree and often did, but they walked away as friends. And they did it with dignity.

Tom Bevill was always at the Thursday morning prayer breakfast. He sat in the same place every week with his friends. He took me with him the first time I went and I was and am a better person for it. He showed me where members of Congress could eat lunch in the Capitol. As often as I could I would eat there, watching and listening to Tom Bevill and his friends. Members were always trying to talk to Tom Bevill, to ask him for something, and he was always kind and courteous.

The Alabama delegation, seven of us, would tend to gather at every vote in the same area of the House Floor. Mr. Bevill would watch our votes and every now and then he would make a comment. A careful comment—"Bud, are 'we' being a politician today or a statesmen?" or "I find that 'our' people in Alabama don't see this issue the way some do . . ." Offering wonderful, helpful, wise advice, that was the kind of man he was.

And so, every now and then some, not many, will say to me in my district in North

Alabama, "You are going to be another Tom Bevill," or at least that's the way I hear it in my mind. They probably actually say, "You keep this up and you 'might' be another Tom Bevill." Then I know, that after 15 years, I have heard the best compliment one could pay . . . To be compared to Tom Bevill.

He gave us so much and I will miss him dearly.

To his children, Susan, Don, and Patty, thank you for letting us share him with you and your families.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of everyone in North Alabama, to show my thanks to Congressman Bevill and honor him as a true American leader. There won't be another one like Tom Bevill.

PEST MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SUPPRESSION FLEXIBILITY ACT

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Pest Management and Fire Suppression Flexibility Act. This bill codifies the Environmental Protection Agency's rule-making, while affirming Congressional intent and the long-held positions of Republican and Democrat administrations with regard to the Clean Water Act and pesticide applications, fire suppression and other pest management activities. I am pleased to be joined by 28 members in introducing this legislation.

Congress passed the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) in the early 1970s in an attempt to better account for and more closely regulate discharges of municipal wastes and pollutants into our nation's waterways from large industrial facilities.

More than 30 years later, however, federal courts have expanded the scope of the CWA far beyond the original intent of Congress. Today, family farmers, mosquito-abatement and pest-control districts, irrigators, rural water districts, federal and state agencies, foresters, pest and lawn-care control operators and many others are subject to unnecessary, bureaucratic permitting requirements and nuisance lawsuits based on misguided interpretation of the CWA by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Known as the Talent and Forsgren decisions, the court ruled that persons applying a pesticide according to the federally approved label directly to or above a body of water must obtain a CWA permit prior to the application. The Forsgren decision also significantly narrowed a longstanding Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule exempting forestry activities such as pest and fire control from CWA permitting requirements. Similar cases are pending in other parts of the country.

The court's viewpoint in Talent blatantly disregards the comprehensive pesticide registration process required by the primary federal pesticide statute, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Under FIFRA, the EPA reviews environmental effects and water quality data, and approves specific use directions for pesticides based on the information it has evaluated—a factor the district court in Talent relied heavily on in rejecting the suit. Failing to use a pesticide in accordance with its EPA-approved labeling is a violation of federal and state laws.